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a plurality of actuator coils, one of the actuator coils being disposed about each of the posts, each actuator coil operable to electromechanically move the corresponding post downwardly so as to move the corresponding key. .

23. The keyboard instrument according to claim 22, wherein the sensor comprises a plurality of individual sensors. .

24. The keyboard instrument according to claim 22, wherein each of the posts includes a finger extending from a lower end thereof, the sensor being operable to sense movement of fingers.

REMARKS

In a Office Action mailed August 28, 2002, the Examiner indicated claims 1-4 and 10-21 are allowed, and claims 7-10 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. By the present response, the claims have not been amended, but are reproduced for ease of reference. Applicant wishes to hold a telephonic interview with the Examiner to discuss the outstanding rejections.

Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under §102 over U.S. Patent No. 4,383,464 to Brennan. Claim 5 is an independent claim directed to a keyboard actuation system wherein an actuator moves a counterweight in order to move a key on the keyboard instrument. Applicant has reviewed the Brennan patent and has been unable to locate a counterweight that is moved by an actuator. The counterweight referred to in claim 5 is intended to be a counterweight that does not form part of the key itself. If necessary, Applicant is willing to amend claim 5 to clarify this point so as to clarify the distinction between the present invention and the Brennan patent. Claim 6 depends from claim 5, and should be allowable once allowance of claim 5 is agreed upon.

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Claims 22-24 stand rejected under §102 over U.S. Patent No. 3,160,052 to Von Gunten. Claim 22 is an independent claim, with claims 23 and 24 depending therefrom. Claim 22 is directed to a player keyboard instrument wherein each of the keys has a downwardly extending post that includes a portion of ferromagnetic material. This system includes a sensor operable to sense movement of the posts in addition to a sound reproduction system that is in communication with a sensor and operable to produce sound in response to movement of the posts. In addition, actuator coils surround each of the posts and are operable to move the posts downwardly so as to move the corresponding key. Applicant has reviewed the Von Gunten patent and has been unable to locate any reference to a sensor that senses movement of a post that extends downwardly from the keys. It appears that Von Gunten does provide coils that operate to move an armature that extends downwardly from each corresponding key. However, it does not appear that a sensor for sensing movement of these armatures is provided or suggested.

Any questions concerning the present application should be directed to Applicant's below-signed representative.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Douglas L. Wathen

Reg. No. 41,369

Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,

Anderson & Citkowski, PC

280 N. Old Woodward Ave., Suite 400

Birmingham, MI 48009

Tel. 734/913-9300

Fax. 734/913-6007

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GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE, ANDERSON & CITKOWSKI, P.C. 280 N. OLD WOODWARD AVENUE, STE. 400, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48009-5394 (249) 647-6000